

**Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Minutes of the Stated Meeting, 12 February 2008
Unity Presbyterian Church - Terre Haute, Indiana**

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley met Tuesday, February 12, 2008. The meeting, which was held at Unity Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute, began at 10:05 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. Fred Barnes, Moderator, called the meeting to order, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Elder David Holt, First Presbyterian Church-Bloomfield moved, and Elder Joyce Clark, Terre Haute Central, moved the appointment of Rev. Lant Davis of Terre Haute-Central as Acting Clerk in place of Larry Jackman, who was injured. **APPROVED**

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM, SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The Moderator announced the presence of a quorum. The following persons were enrolled as corresponding members: (add names)

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The Stated Clerk moved adoption of the docket with the following changes: In the absence of the treasurer because of illness, the Treasurer's five minutes will go to the Executive Presbyter. The Prayers of the People will follow the Sharing of Small Group Discussions in the afternoon. The moderator also acknowledged that because of the bad road conditions caused by inclement weather, some flexibility in the docket might be necessary during the day. The original docket follows:

Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Assembly at Terre Haute Unity Church
February 12, 2008

10 a.m. Call to Order-Opening Prayer, Declaration of a Quorum, Approval of Docket and welcome by Host Pastor.

10:05 a.m. Introduction of New Members and Delegates to Assembly

10:15 a.m. Adoption of Consent Agenda-Minutes Approval, Report of Stated Clerk, Report of Trustee s, Committee on Ministry (Part 1).

10:20 a.m. Moderator's Report

10:25 a.m. Worship and the Celebration of Communion
/Rev. Peggy Casteel

Elder Fred Barnes

11:10 a.m. Vision Task Force Report

Rev Jack Cormack
Rev. Gene Gladney

11:30 Small Group Discussion of Report

Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Vision Task Force Sharing of Small Group Discussions

1:25 p.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry Elder Mary Jean DeMarr

Presentation of Peter Barnes-Davies, Candidate

1:45 p.m. Committee on Ministry Elder Phil Newton

1:52 p.m. Church Development and Redevelopment Rev. Steve Geckeler

2:07 p.m. Pyoca Elder Rich Swartwood

2:15 p.m. Mission and Social Justice Elder Jo Lucas

2:25 p.m. Treasurer's Report Rev. Charlie Pye

2:30 p.m. Report from Clusters

2:42 p.m. Speak Out Session

2:52 p.m. Executive Presbyter Rev. Lorna Kuyk

3:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Rev. Brad Napier

3:10 p.m. Nominations Rev. Mitch Coggin

3:15 p.m. Presbytery Council Elder David Holt

3:25 p.m. New Business

3:30 p.m. Adjournment

With the changes noted above, the docket was **APPROVED**.

Report of the Stated Clerk

Lawrence "Larry" Jackman

An **Administrative Commission** was appointed to Ordain Veltri Taylor. That Commission was comprised of the following: Elder Fred Barnes, Moderator; Rev. Robert Allen, Elder Patricia Poland; Elder Tom Keller and Rev. Dennis Davenport. The commission met and carried out their charge on January 6, 2008 at the Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana. Having completed their assignment the Commission was dissolved.

The following is an analysis of 2007 information as it relates to **Representation/ Parity** within the Presbytery:

At the close of 2007 the Presbytery had a total of 113 minister members. Of those, a total of 10 (ten) lived significantly beyond the bounds of the Presbytery or had addresses that are unknown. Two minister members of the Presbytery are retired and known to be unable to attend due to health considerations. This leaves a total of **101 ministers** who could reasonably be expected to attend an Assembly.

The Presbytery consists of 83 Churches each with Elder delegates to the Assemblies. In addition there were 4 (four) Churches with two ministers who are eligible to have two minister delegates. Eleven elders serve as Commissioned Lay Pastors in our churches. 8 (eight) Elders hold office that gives them membership in the Presbytery by virtue of that office. **106 elders** may reasonably be expected to attend an Assembly.

The actual participation in Presbytery assemblies through 2007 demonstrates close balance of Minister Members and Elders. There is no need to make representational adjustments, based on the 101/106 balance of Ministers to Elders.

Remaining 2008 meetings for the Presbytery Assembly are as follows:

April 12	Bloomington Hospital, Bloomington
June 12	Electronic Regional Meeting, Several linked locations.
September 13	Mt. Tabor Church, New Albany
December 4	Eastminster Church, Evansville

Committee on Ministry
Report to Presbytery Assembly
February 12, 2008
Phillip Newton

COM has met once in face to face meetings since the last assembly; we met on January 12, 2008. We continue to work to support all churches in our Presbytery and call them to understand *the transforming power that God has for them in all of their relationships, activities and tasks.*

Items for Action

We have no items for action at this time that need to be addressed by the assembly.

Items for Information

The following contacts and agreements have been approved by the Committee on Ministry. All amounts are annualized except when otherwise noted. The contracts meet the requirements as established by COM. All meet POV minimums standards for auto mileage reimbursement at current IRS rate, vacation one (1) month including four (4) Sundays, and study leave two (2) weeks including 2 Sundays, cumulative to three years, unless otherwise noted.

Jan 12, 2008 COM Meeting

I - 1 Covenant Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth and **Richard A. Goodwin** serving as **Commissioned Lay Pastor**

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Complete preparation process and continuing education as required by the CLP Committee. 4. Hospital calling; visitation of shut-ins and others, leadership of youth group, counseling as requested. Performing all ministerial duties as authorized by Presbytery.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
1/8/08 to 12/31/08		\$15,742	use of manse	IRS rte	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays	\$700 cumulative for 3 years	Qualifies

Also \$8,300 for Personal utilities, supplies, etc. and also \$13,286.48 for Health/pension plan (including dental).

I - 2 First Presbyterian Church of Princeton and Alan Finnan serving as Temporary Supply Pastor.

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Lenten Series.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
2/10/08 to 3/30/08	Part Time	\$2,000		IRS rate				

I - 3 Grace United Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, Indiana and Rev. Charles Pye serving as Stated Supply Pastor.

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Care and nurture of the congregation.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
11/01/07 to 10/31/08	20	\$9,393		IRS rate	2 weeks	1 month	\$600 two weeks	Qualifies (\$9,339 403b contributions.)

I - 4 Scottsburg Presbyterian Church of Scottsburg, Indiana and Peter Barnes-Davies serving as Candidate/ Inquirer.

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services of worship for the congregation. 2. Provides pastoral care, conducts funerals, special services, and new member training as can be scheduled. 3. Moderate session and facilitate shared leadership development within the congregation with pastor. 4. Promote and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
11/1/08 to 3/31/08	20	\$325 / week		IRS rate	2 weeks	1 Sunday every three months	\$700 cumulative for 3 years	Eligible

Also \$100 for the period of this contract and up to \$30 /month as a part of Reimbursable business expenses.

This agreement will be terminated upon his ordination-expected in February or March 2008.

I - 5 Scottsburg Presbyterian Church of Scottsburg, Indiana and Peter Barnes-Davies serving as Stated Supply Pastor.

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services of worship for the congregation. 2. Provides pastoral care, conducts funerals, weddings, baptisms, special services, and new member training as can be scheduled. 3. Moderate session and facilitate shared leadership development within the congregation with pastor. 4. Promote and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
Feb-2008 to 2/28/09	20	\$8,067	\$11,340	IRS rate	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays		Qualifies

Additional \$560 for Reimbursable Business Expenses-which includes \$30 /mo cell phone use. Also holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day. **This agreement will take effect after ordination.**

I - 6 Cayuga Presbyterian Church of Cayuga Indiana and Rev. Grover C. Williams serving as Temporary/Stated Supply Agreement-Ministers of Other Denominations (Ordained by the Holiness Methodist denomination)

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services o worship. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Complete preparation process agreed to with COM. 4. Provides pastoral care, visits shut-ins, hospitalized, etc. Conducts funerals weddings, baptisms, Easter Sunrise, Christmas Eve, etc.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
1/1/08 to 12/31/08	18	\$400 / week	\$20,800 annualized	IRS rate		1 month 4 Sundays		

I - 7 Valley City Presbyterian Church of Central Indiana and Carol W. Humphrey serving as Stated Supply.

Duties include: 1. Conduct Weekly services of worship, incl. children's message, bulletins, help w Sunday School when necessary. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Conduct elder/deacon/new member instruction. 4. Moderate Session and congregational meetings. 5. Conduct weddings, funerals, & pastoral visitation when possible.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
1/1/08 to 12/31/08	10-12	\$43 / week		IRS rate	2 weeks 3 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays		

Also, 7 Sundays off with reimbursement. Continuing Ed has never been a part of contract.

I - 8 Greencastle Presbyterian Church of Greencastle, Indiana and Robert E. Shaw serving as Interim Pastor.

(All the extensive Duties and Goals of Interim Requirements are included in contract-which was emailed to all.)

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
4/1/08-3/30/09	30 (3/4 time)	\$5,050.66	\$21,833.50	IRS rate	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays	\$1,500	Pension & SECA Offset of \$2,227

Also, misc expenses incurred in professional activities including books, vestments, & meals. COM approval contingent upon Greencastle Session approving this agreement. Session approved Terms at January 14th session mtg.

I - 9 First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Indiana and Kimberly Sue Olson serving as Interim Pastor.

(All the extensive Duties and Goals of Interim Requirements are included in contract.)

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
1/22/08 to 1/21/09	40 (full time)	\$15,000	\$32,000	IRS rate	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays	\$2,000	\$2,000 qualifies OK

Also Salary Supplement of additional \$10,800 for travel-commute. Also, misc expenses up to \$1,200 incurred in professional activities including books. COM approval contingent upon receipt of signed agreement. Signed contract has been received.

I - 10 Vernon Presbyterian Church of Vernon, Indiana and Sarah J. Cochran serving as Candidate/Inquirer.

Duties include: 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Visitation. 4. Special Services (Ash Wed, Easter, Christmas).

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
1/1/08 to 12/31/08	16	\$10,200		IRS rate	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays	\$800 cum. 3yrs	

I - 11 Central Presbyterian Church of Terre Haute, Indiana and Alan N Harder serving as Temporary Supply Commissioned Lay Pastor.

Duties include: 1. Conducting services of worship; and 2. Participating in and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery; and 3. Complete ongoing mentoring and 16 contact hours of continuing education annually; and 4. Administering Holy Sacraments; and 5. Officiating at weddings and funerals; and 6. Providing support to committees and commissions of the church; and 7. Making pastoral visitations.

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
1/1/08 to 12/31/08	16.6	\$9,704		IRS rate	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays	\$800 cum. 3yrs	

I - 12 Brown County Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Indiana and Scott D. Seay serving as Interim Pastor.

(All the extensive Duties and Goals of Interim Requirements are included in contract.)

Period	Hrs. /wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont. Ed.	Pension
2/1/08 to 1/31/09	20	\$20,661		IRS rate	2 weeks 2 Sundays	1 month 4 Sundays	\$550	

Also \$7,500 paid into TIAA-CREF retirement account. COM approval contingent upon receipt of signed agreement. Signed Contract has been received.

I - 13 COM approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Peggy Casteel as Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana. The Terms of Call or as follows:

Effective Salary - \$44, 198;

SECA - \$3,381.

All other items met the requirements as established by BOP and COM. These terms were approved pending approval of call by the congregation. The congregation approved the call on January 27, 2008.

I - 14 COM approved Fred Barnes, CLP and Moderator of POV, to Moderate the session of Parke Memorial Presbyterian Church of Evansville.

I - 15 COM approved the Interim Ministry report from Rev. Robert Shaw, interim pastor for Greencastle Presbyterian Church.

I - 16 COM approved the CIF for Greencastle Presbyterian Church.

I - 17 COM recommended that a candidate that had been submitted by the PNC of Lexington and interviewed by a committee of 6 from COM for the Lexington Presbyterian Church was not acceptable for their church nor for POV. After discernment, the PNC of Lexington was in agreement.

I - 18 A candidate seeking admission to POV was interviewed by an Interview Team made up of 6 members of COM on January 11, 2008. The committee was comprised of 4 ministers and 2 elders. It was the recommendation of this committee to COM to not approve the request for transfer. The **motion failed** and it was determined the candidate will be given the opportunity to appear before the whole committee at our March 1st meeting to make his request.

I - 19 COM approved the motion to accept the transfer of the ordination credentials of Rev. Boyd R, Heldring from the Albany Classis of the Reformed Church of America to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the POV, in accordance with G11.040 a-e, pending his release in good standing from the Classis. Boyd is currently serving the Main Street Presbyterian Church in Petersburg and has previously been interviewed and accepted for membership.

WELCOME BY HOST

Rev. Linda Peters, Pastor of the host Church welcomed all members, commissioners, and guests to Unity Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute.

INTRODUCTIONS

First time Commissioners and new Ministers were welcomed.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Acting Stated Clerk moved adoption of the consent agenda. This includes approval of the minutes of the meeting of Dec. 6, 2007, the reports of the stated clerk, and the Committee on Ministry (Part 1) (as included above) Rev. Linda Peters seconded the motion. **APPROVED**

Moderator's Report

Fred Barnes declared he was delighted and excited to be moderator. People are doing so many things right in this presbytery, he observed. The Presbytery includes 83 churches with 8000 members. The new clusters are doing many things. In a period of change when the Presbytery is discussing the report of the Vision Task Force (VTF), things can be scary, he noted. But he encouraged commissioners to be bold, to think outside the box and to give the VTF report an honest look. We should take as long as we need to discuss the report, he said. He then introduced the new vice-moderator, Rev. Peggy Casteel of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus.

Rev. Peters, the host pastor, and Rev. Casteel, led worship, which included the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MORNING BUSINESS SECTION

Vision Task Force Report

Rev. Gene Gladney presented the revised version of this task force report.

A study guide was distributed to facilitate discussion of the report. (This study guide was also available in the Task Force Report available on line). Council created the VTF. Rev. Jack Cormack has coordinated. The Task Force has worked on this project for two years. Purpose of report is to envision the future of presbytery, he said. It should help us answer the question who the presbytery wants to be. Takes a missional approach to ministry, rather than an administrative one. This helps the presbytery and the church to reach outward. The concept of clusters, which it contains. Rev. Robert Shaw, Interim Pastor-Greencastle, asked if any study has been made of this presbytery's demographic characteristics. Rev. Casteel said that has not been undertaken. Rather, the idea has been to create a vision for the presbytery. She thinks it should be done by clusters. Rev. Gladney affirms this idea, and adds that such a study would be made once the cluster operation is set up. (E.P. would become missional presbyter). He points out that the study guide provides information about the origin of the thinking of this report. John Mattson, UPC-Clinton, COM has been working with CD&R. Gary Scroggins, Brazil asked about experience with clusters so far. Gladney says it's been generally positive, although a couple still are not off the ground. Casteel said several of them are very active in training, youth ministry, etc. Ann Stanley, Montezuma, asked about the future of the presbytery. Gladney says the POV assemblies and their committees and task forces would continue, but things such as nominating

and work of committees would be decentralized into the work of clusters. The idea is to bring presbytery and congregations into more organic relationship.

The assembly then divided into small groups to discuss the revised report. The moderator provided questions to the small groups to facilitate their discussions.

At 12:05 p.m., the Assembly formally recessed for lunch, although small bunch discussions continued through lunch. Rev. Mitch Coggin of the Grammar and Scipio churches, gave the blessing.

AFTERNOON BUSINESS SECTION

Fred Barnes reconvened the Assembly at 12:59 p.m.

Vision Task Force Sharing of Small Group Discussions

Rev. Gladney returned to the podium. He pointed out that one change from the previous manifestation of the proposal is that the Trustees would oversee the central bookkeeping system. Trustees would also coordinate budget requests. The timeline has also been changed, so that the first reading would be in April, and the second in September, with the vote at that time. The task force has received responses from those involved in "coaching" who have some recommendations for incorporating coaching in the proposal. Concern was also expressed about the need to help clergy in time of crisis. This issue is not yet integrated in the proposal.

The spokespeople for the discussion groups then gave their reports. Rev. Cheryl Thorne (Indiana Presbyterian Church-Vincennes) testified that her group thought the missional language unclear, and that it needs more than missional. This returns to the roots of Presbyterian heritage, she said. Not only elders and pastors in her cluster, but also church members are excited about the cluster concept. Clusters need to be careful not to schedule events only in daytime. She views each cluster to be like a mega-church, with 10 or 12 campuses.

Elder Joyce Cook, Terre Haute-Central commented that the missional approach is new, that it clearly has been a missing element. Some clusters are still not sure yet what they're doing. The missional part must be accomplished together. Among the weaknesses, she said, were the lack of organization and knowing what to do. Not every cluster can do everything, she concluded.

Elder David Holt, Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, noted a very positive response and an affirmation of the need for change. Each cluster will understand its own demographics, he said. Presbytery will be strengthened by the presence of clusters. Among his concerns was the relative relationship between small and large churches because cluster activities would usually take place in larger churches. He wondered where pastors will find the additional time needed for cluster activities, and how responsibilities would shift from committees to clusters.

Rev. Linda Peters, Unity Presbyterian Church, said the VTF report is exciting because it has an objective. She expressed the hope that small churches will not get lost in the process, and wondered how cluster activities would be financed and how they would be connected to the General Assembly and the Synod. She wondered who would help clusters, which she compared to the old mission councils, that don't function. The plan adds, she pointed out, another layer between Sessions and Presbytery.

Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham, non-parish clergy, noted that the various clusters had had different experiences so far. In the long run they will facilitate the work of the Committee on Ministry. He wondered how they would affect Presbyterian youth. He also stated that he did not want to lose fellowship of presbytery.

Rev. Gladney responded by saying this is still a work in progress. Some things will turn out not to work and some will prove to be a detriment. The vice-moderator will have responsibility for non-functioning clusters. The new council would also have this responsibility. The purpose of the clusters is to bring presbytery closer to congregations.

Rev. Larry Langer, First Presbyterian Church-Jasper, elaborated on the question of the additional load for the trustees. He is concerned that the trustees will hold up cluster activity (as was formerly the case in some churches). He thinks for a variety of reasons that another group should be founded to develop the mission and witness budget. He said he fears the trustees will have too much power and authority. Gladney acknowledged potential problems in this issue.

Moderator Barnes thanked the members of the assembly for their input. He said the VTF report should also be discussed at Session and cluster meetings and those responses shared with the Vision Task Force.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Lorna Kuyk began the prayers by asking people to sing the winter hymn, "All Beautiful the March of Days." She then led commissioners in prayer.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Action item:

1. Motion: that Candidate Peter Barnes-Davies be examined and, if the examination is successful, be approved for ordination to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament.

fenp1033 Comments: The Candidate is a member Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, in Louisville, Kentucky, and is under care of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. That Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for the Ministry has performed his final assessment and approved him to circulate his Personal Information Form. He has received a call from the session of the Scottsburg Church to serve them as Stated Supply. The POV CPM was asked to examine him and has done so on January 4 of this year; we discussed his faith statement and his journey toward the ministry, heard him preach, discussed his exegesis with him, and ascertained his understanding of and willingness to answer all ordination questions in the affirmative. On being satisfied of his readiness for ordained ministry, we voted unanimously to bring him to the floor of presbytery for examination. Assuming that he is approved by this presbytery, he will be ordained at his home church.

Peter Barnes-Davies Candidate Supply Pastor, FPC, Scottsburg, Ind., Candidate for Ministry, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery:

Statement of faith

(nota bene: My inquirer's then candidate's statements of faith are my starting point here.

682833 I develop those statements further, suggesting how my faith is constant and growing.)

I hold faith in God, the Creator of all life. God is, at once, both father and mother, a celestial parent who brings all life into being. God separates night from day, land from sea, mountains from valleys, and God births all creatures and created things into being. God breathes and the whole cosmos -including *Homo sapiens* -come to life, from dust! All this and more is accomplished by the awesome creative power of God, our Maker. This God's creative power resembles that of a shepherd who forges a flock out of individual sheep, a community where troubles recede and holy love blossoms. This God waters the pastures of life providing nourishment and comfort even and especially to "the little ones." So I believe in God, the Shepherd.

I put trust in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all life. Jesus is, at once, both human and divine. Or, moving beyond anthropomorphism, Jesus is at once of this world and another world. Jesus offers salvation and redemption to all God's creation. Pointing to the lilies of the field (Lk. 12:27), Jesus proclaims the reality of redemption already received in glorious form. By faith the world is saved from sin, from powers and principalities, from evil within and without. By faith Jesus Christ redeems, day by day, again and again granting deliverance from fires of death, storms of destruction, and pits of contention and despair. This trust I hold in Christ who was crucified and is resurrected, who bears our burdens, heals our brokenness, and redeems us toward reconciliation, forgiveness, and renewal. Thus I believe in God, the Lamb.

I place belief in the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer of all life. The Holy Spirit is, at once, both a comfort and a threat. Like Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel, we are both frightened and inspired by holy visitations. In dreams, in prayer and reflection, in the living of our daily lives with all the community of saints, the Holy Spirit comes and indeed is present with us now. To complete the trinity of God the shepherd and God the lamb, I express belief in God the Gatekeeper of the sheepfold, the protecting presence that allows life to blossom freely in our bodies, in the body of Christ, and in the world. Without this encircling barrier, death comes; and yet by its delimiting power life eternal reigns. Indeed, I fervently believe in God, the Gatekeeper.

I draw this Trinitarian faith from Holy Scripture (John 10), for I believe all worship and Christian ministry is grounded in God's Word, incarnate in Jesus Christ and revealed in Holy Scripture. God's Word, incarnate and revealed, holds unique authority in Christian life and orders our corporate life, including our sacraments: baptism and communion. Given by Christ, the sacraments mark our belonging to Christ's body and our spiritual adoption by God into the Church universal. While divisions in the church are real, I believe they are not what Christ intends. Christ, the head of the Church, bids us to be one. While our human unity is incomplete and provisional, I believe the sacraments make visible a measure of the invisible and unrealized unity that we taste at the Lord's Table and experience in the redeeming and renewing waters of

baptism.

Brief Biography

I was born and raised in Brewster, New York where my father was a pastor. I was baptized, confirmed, and ordained an elder at his church, Brewster Presbyterian. In my mid-twenties I moved to New York City and joined the First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn. There I was commissioned to serve as a mission volunteer in then Zaire, now Congo (DRC). I lived in Africa for 2+ years, after which time I moved to Louisville, KY.

I lived and worked in Louisville for four years, 1999 - 2003, the longest place I'd lived as an adult since college graduation. I worked in various positions at the Worldwide Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and I joined Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC). My spouse Rebecca and I were married in June 2001 at CHPC, the same church under whose care I've been during my seminary studies.

I earned my M.Div. from San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) in 2007. I decided to attend SFTS for many reasons, three of which merit mention. One, I wanted to study with Rev. Dr. Philip Wickeri, my mentor in missiology and SFTS' professor of mission and evangelism. Two, I was drawn to SFTS' 4-year M.Div. program with its one year full-time internship. I did my pastoral internship at Knox Presbyterian Church under the supervision of Rev. Sue Fleenor. Third and finally, I chose SFTS because it allowed me - a younger brother of two older sisters - to live near my closest sister Liz, her husband, and their children, our three nieces and one nephew.

Rebecca and I returned to Louisville in June 2007, in part for family reasons and in part so that Rebecca could begin her M.Div. studies at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rebecca's only brother lives in metro Louisville with his spouse and 2-year old daughter. This, and the fact that Rebecca grew up in Louisville, is the main family reason why we returned to the River City. Lord willing, we hope to remain in the metro Louisville area for years to come.

Beyond my M.Div., I have a B.A. in Religious Studies from Yale University ('91) and an M.S.W. from Hunter College School of Social Work ('95).

The assembly examined the candidate. It was moved and seconded to close the examination. **APPROVED.**

Rev. Bob Shaw, Greencastle Presbyterian Church, moved and Rev. John Mattson, Montezuma and Clinton Presbyterian Churches, seconded that the examination be sustained. **APPROVED**

It was moved and seconded that he be approved and recommended for ordination in the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky. **APPROVED**

CPM Information item:

At our meeting of 4 January 2008, we welcomed new member Monica Gould, continued planning for our retreat of 25-26 July, and continued our discussion of standardizing examinations of candidates. We also reassigned several Inquirers to new liaisons, as their former liaison has resigned from the committee.

Committee on Ministry, Part II

Elder Phil Newton, moderator of the committee, presented the report. The committee recommends approval of the transfer of Rev. Boyd Heldring from the Reformed Church of American to the PCUSA. He was removed from RCA rolls the day before the assembly. He comes from the Albany Presbytery where he served. He is already a member of the PCUSA Board of Pensions. He was called to the Main Street Presbyterian Church, May 1, 2007. He is approved according to appropriate regulation in the Book of Order. Newton noted that the POV developed policy for transfer from other denominations in 2000, but this is the first time it will be implemented.

Rev. Heldring was examined according to G-11.0404C.

Rev. Scroggins moved to suspend the examination. The motion was seconded. **APPROVED**

Rev. Langer moved to sustain the examination. The motion was seconded. **APPROVED**

Rev. Heldring answered the questions as laid out in the Book of Order. Prayer was offered.

Church Development & Redevelopment

Rev. Scott Hill, Corydon, reporting for Steve Geckler, handed out the CD&R Annual Report and then the criteria for assessing possible new church developments. He focused his oral remarks on the possible new church development projects in the Floyd/Scott county and Evansville areas. The coach says the committee can take two more years. Hill then expounded on the criteria. Rev. Langer raised the issue of calling the PCUSA, "a particularly faithful expression of the Body of Christ". He also said that if the Presbytery adopts a missional mindset, it needs to invest in that mission. He called for less concern with demographics, especially of the rich. Rev. Heldring said not only prayer and homework are needed, but also the right pastor. It shouldn't be someone just out of seminary.

Pyoca Camp & Conference Center

Rev. Dave Crittendon, non-parish clergy, presented the report in place Rich Swartwood. So far \$760, 580 has been pledged to the capital campaign from churches in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley and Whitewater Presbytery. He reminded commissioners that this is the 100th anniversary of Presbyterian camping. This summer's theme at Pyoca will be "Living with Care". He reviewed the March schedule, and then mentioned that in April a youth group from France will be using the camp in partnership with Mt. Vernon. Rev. Monica Gould (Mt. Vernon) then elaborated on the visit by young people for Bourgogne (Burgundy).

Mission & Social Justice

No report was made as Elder Jo Lucas was ill.

Treasurer's Report

Although Rev. Charlie Pye was also absent because of illness, he had submitted the following report in advance of the meeting:

Presbytery of Ohio Valley Condensed Statement of Revenues & Expenses (Actual and Budget)
January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007

	Annual Budget Rev.	
Jan - Dec 07 Actual		Jan - Dec 07
Per Capita	\$186,995	\$ 196,108
Shared Mission Giving	123,212	136,000
Contributions	10,803	15,000
Transfer from Restricted Funds	9,000	9,000
Investment Earnings	10,000	10,000
Total Revenue	340,010	366,108
 Expense		
Staff Expense	166,287	181,275
Ecclesial Expense	82,830	88,130
Meeting Expense	10,427	23,000
Administration & Office Expense	37,632	47,500
Program Expense	28,271	33,169
Total Expense	325,447	373,074
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ 14,563</u>	<u>\$ (6,966)</u>

A detailed statement is available upon request.
Please contact Charles Pye at accounting@povpc.org

Reports from Clusters & Speak Out Session

Donna Paul-Bonham, Terre Haute Central, spoke about Youth Triennium. She expressed hope that it would grow into an annual summer experience for the youth of the presbytery and proceeded to hand out a flier about a mission trip to Lexington, Ky. at Maxwell St. Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Coggin promoted the 5-day spiritual academy, June 15-20.

Mr. Barnes-Davies thanked the assembly for its support, and announced that his ordination would take place, Mar. 1, at Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, Louisville. A Celebration of Covenant will take place in Scottsburg, March 2. Rev. Peters talked about a healing service for the NW cluster. Bonita Hill from Brazil discussed the Network of Biblical Storytellers. Moderator Barnes noted the SW Cluster did elder training. The WC cluster had a pitch in meal.

Executive Presbyter

Lorna Kuyk thanked the assembly for her sabbatical, which started two days after the last assembly. She cleaned files, and then went to Albuquerque where she fell off the curb, but she got the rest she needed and has come back with energy. Her first focus now will be to get the office functioning better. The second goal is adoption of a Vision and Mission statement. The

third task, she said, is to foster relationships with clusters, and coaching (in natural church development). Then she expanded her comments on coaching, referencing Christ-Centered Coaching by Jane Creswell. Coaching, Kuyk said, has transformed her life. As an example, she said she takes regular Sabbath because of the work she did with her coach.

She celebrated with Martha Friz-Langer for finishing her dissertation, and use of a coach. The Presbytery now has 16 trained coaches. It costs \$500 for coach training in the presbytery. (Her training cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000.) Coaching skills are valuable in all areas of ministry of elders, deacons and minister such as working with youth, pastoral care, education, outreach, leadership development, etc.

Stewardship Committee

Rev. Crittendon, substituting for the inimitable Brad Napier, reminded churches to fill out their mission commitment cards. He also invited individual contributions, and called attention to a brochure for a stewardship workshop in Dallas.

Nominations

Rev. Coggin presented the report. Three committees -- COM, Seeds and CD&R -- still need members. An opening has just materialized on CPM. He encouraged nominations.

Each committee submits two names for Council. These are presented for election.

**NOMINATING BALLOT
Nominees for Council**

COMMITTEE	NAME	CLASS	CLUSTER/REGION	ELDER/CLERGY
Commissioned Lay Pastor	Mary McClellan and Chris Gwaltney	2009	North Central	Elder
		2009	Southwest	Elder
Committee on Ministry	Cheryl Thorne	2009	West Central	Minister
Mission & Social Justice	Jo Lucas	2009	North Central	Elder
Seeds To Trees	Karen Hahn	2009	North Central	Elder
Stewardship	Brad Napier	2009	North Central	Minister

The nominees were all confirmed and **ELECTED**

Presbytery Council

Moderator David Holt presented the report. It needs three people for to serve on Nominating Committee. One nominee today is Elder Jack Fenoglio—Clinton for the class of 2010.

APPROVED. Two lay women are needed, one each from Southeast and South Central.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m. EST, concluding with prayer and a benediction by Rev. Casteel.

The next assembly will be April 12, 2008 at Bloomington Hospital, Bloomington.

Owen V. Johnson, Recording Clerk
Lant Davis, Acting Stated Clerk
February 12, 2008